CLAIMS

1. A compound comprising a polysaccharide acid a pendant moiety linked at least one terminal unit derived from a sialic acid unit which includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide groups, vinylsulphone groups, N-iodoacetamide groups orthopyridyl disulphide groups.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which the pendant moiety is linked at the reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.

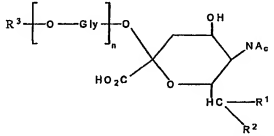
3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the moiety is linked at the non-reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.

4. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the moiety comprises an alkanediyl group and/or an arylene group and a linkage optionally in combination with a oxalkylene or oligoaxa-alkylene group which is a secondary amine linkage, a hydrazone, an alkyl hydrazide linkage or a peptide linkage.

5. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the functional group is N-maleimido.

6. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid, preferably consisting substantially only of sialic acid units

7. A compound which the compound has the formula



in which one of the following groups of definitions apply:

i) R^1 is H or $-CHOHCH_2OH$, R^2 is OH and R^3 is either $-CH_2CHR^4R^5$ or $-CH(CH_2OH)CHR^4R^5$ in which R^4 and R^5 together represent $=N-NR^6$ or R^4 is H and R^5 is $-NR^6R^7$ in which R^6 is an organic group

AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 13 December 2004 (13.12.2004): original claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 22 amended; remaining claims unchanged; (4 pages)]

CLAIMS

1. A compound comprising a polysaccharide having a pendant moiety linked to at least one terminal unit derived from a sialic acid unit which includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide groups, vinylsulphone groups, N-iodoacetamide groups and orthopyridyl disulphide groups.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which the pendant moiety is linked at the reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.

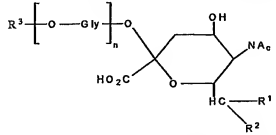
3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the moiety is linked at the non-reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.

4. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the moiety comprises an alkanediyl group and/or an arylene group and a linkage optionally in combination with a oxalkylene or oligooxa-alkylene group which is a secondary amine linkage, a hydrazone, an alkyl hydrazide linkage or a peptide linkage.

5. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the functional group is N-maleimido.

6. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid, preferably consisting substantially only of sialic acid units.

7. A compound according to claim 1 which has the formula

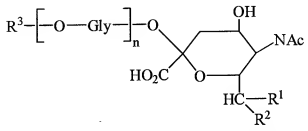


in which one of the following groups of definitions apply:

i) R^1 is H or $-CHOHCH_2OH$, R^2 is OH and R^3 is either $-CH_2CHR^4R^5$ or $-CH(CH_2OH)CHR^4R^5$ in which R^4 and R^5 together represent $=N-NR^6$ or R^4 is H and R^5 is $-NR^6R^7$ in which R^6 is an organic group

EXHIBIT B

7. (currently amended): [[A]] The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1 which has the formula



~~in which one of the following groups of definitions apply~~ wherein:

[[i)]] (a) R^1 is H or -$CHOHCH_2OH$, and R^2 is OH, [[and]]

R^3 is [[either]] -$CH_2CHR^4R^5$ or -$CH(CH_2OH)CHR^4R^5$ ~~in which~~ wherein R^4 and R^5 together represent =N-NR^6 or R^4 is H and R^5 is -NR^6R^7 in which R^6 is an organic group comprising the said pendant functional group or is H, and R^7 is H, or R^6 and R^7 together are a 1,3-but-2-enedioyl group; or

[[ii)]] (b) R^1 and R^2 together represent ~~=N-NR6~~ =N-NHR^6 or R^1 is H and R^2 is -NR^6R^7 in which R^6 is an organic group comprising the said pendant functional group or is H, and R^7 is H or R^6 and R^7 together are a 1,3-but-2-enedioyl group;

[[Gly-O]] O-Gly is a glycosyl (saccharide) group;

n is ~~0 or more~~ 1-50; and

Ac is acetyl.

8. (currently amended): A compound ~~according to~~ of claim 7 in which ~~each Gly~~ each O-Gly is a sialic acid unit.

9. (currently amended): ~~A compound comprising a~~ polysialylated protein with at least one [[free]] cysteine unit [[and,]] linked through a thioester bond to ~~the side chain of the cysteine unit, with a polysialic acid, through a moiety joined at one or each~~ at least one terminal ~~units of the~~ unit of a polysialic acid.

EXHIBIT C

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A compound comprising a polysaccharide having at least two sialic acid units linked 2.8 and/or 2.9 to one another, and having reducing and non-reducing terminal units and said polysaccharides having a pendant moiety linked to ~~at least one~~ the reducing terminal ~~unit derived from a~~ sialic acid unit which pendant moiety includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide, ~~vinylsulphone~~ vinyl sulfone, N-iodoacetamide and orthopyridyl ~~disulphide~~ disulfide.

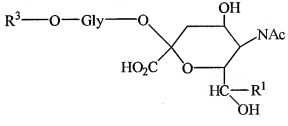
2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 ~~in which~~ wherein the pendant moiety further comprises alkylene and/or arylene and/or an oxalkylene and/or oligooxa-alkylene and/or oligopeptide.

5. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 ~~in which~~ wherein the functional group is N-maleimido.

6. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 ~~in which~~ wherein the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid.

7. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 which has the formula



wherein:

[[(a)]] R^1 is H or -$CHOHCH_2OH$, ~~and R^2 is OH~~,

EXHIBIT D